

# MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Over the last several years, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and the public mental health system have continued to make great strides to improve the availability of community-based services for individuals with mental illness, substance use and/or developmental disabilities (IDD). Below are a few examples of the progress the State has made.

- **MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAMS:** In 2014, each of the 14 Community Mental Health Centers developed Mobile Crisis Response Teams to provide community-based crisis services that deliver solution-focused and recovery-oriented behavioral health assessments and stabilization of crisis in the location where the individual is experiencing the crisis. This service is available statewide. Based on January – December 2014 data, the Teams provided 7,155 face-to-face interventions.
- **PROGRAMS OF ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT TEAMS (PACT):** Mississippi now has eight PACT Teams operated by the following Community Mental Health Centers: Warren-Yazoo Mental Health Services, Life Help, Pine Belt Mental Health (operates two PACT - one on the Gulf Coast), Hinds Behavioral Health, Weems Community Mental Health Center, Region III Mental Health Center and Timber Hills Mental Health Services. PACT is a mental health service delivery model for facilitating community living, psychological rehabilitation and recovery for persons who have the most severe and persistent mental illnesses and have not benefited from traditional outpatient/community services.
- **WRAPAROUND FACILITATION FOR CHILDREN:** In partnership with the Division of Medicaid and the University of Southern Mississippi, School of Social Work, DMH has provided training to approximately 500 mental health professionals over the past three years. Wraparound Facilitation is family and youth guided and provides intensive services to allow children and youth to remain in their homes and community.
- **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING:** In 2015, the Mississippi Home Corporation received funding from the Mississippi Legislature to partner with DMH to develop an integrated permanent supported housing project. This will ensure people with a serious mental illness who are housed as a result of permanent supportive housing have the opportunity to live in the most integrated settings in the community of their choice by providing an adequate array of community supports/services.
- **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TO BENEFIT HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS (CABHI):** This federal, time-limited grant began in December 2014 and will address housing and support service needs of persons who are experiencing chronic homelessness who have a substance use or co-occurring use and mental health disorder. Over a three year period, a total of 297 individuals are expected to be enrolled and served, with outreach services provided to as many as 500 individuals. Included in this project is a commitment from five housing service providers in the state of approximately 109 housing slots per year, for a total of 327 housing slots.
- **CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM:** DMH will utilize funding from the CABHI grant to offer Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to 40 officers across the state each year from 2015 - 2017. In 2014, the Meridian Police Department and Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department responded to 189 crisis mental health calls through the East Mississippi Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). As a result of a coalition, including law enforcement, Weems Community Mental Health Center, Central Mississippi Residential Center, NAMI and other health care providers, only five of the calls responded to by law enforcement resulted in arrest (3%). The responding CIT officer was able to defuse the situation and/or make a referral for follow-up in 48% of the calls. 46% of the calls resulted in immediate transport and access to assessment and evaluation through the Crisis Stabilization Unit in Newton. As a result, approximately 177 individuals were diverted from the criminal justice system and provided immediate access to care.

- **NAVIGATE:** This evidence-based program is being piloted through a Coordinated Specialty Care team to assist individuals, 15-30 years of age, that have experienced their first episode of psychosis. Interventions include intensive case management, individual or group therapy, supported employment and education services, family education and support, medication management, and peer support services. This recovery-oriented approach bridges existing resources for this population and eliminates gaps between child, adolescent, and adult mental health programs.
- **SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS:** In January 2015, DMH provided funding to develop four pilot sites to offer Supported Employment to 75 individuals with mental illness. The sites will be located in Community Mental Health Center Regions 2, 7, 10 and 12.
- **MISSISSIPPI STATE ADOLESCENT TREATMENT ENHANCEMENT AND DISSEMINATION:** In 2013, DMH received a four-year grant to improve assessment and treatment services for adolescents with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders.
- **OXFORD HOUSES:** Since 2013, Mississippi has opened 13 Oxford Houses with a total of 82 beds in the following cities: Gulfport, Biloxi, and Jackson. Eight Oxford Houses are for men, four for women, and one for women and children. DMH expects eight more Oxford Houses will be opened by December 2015 using funds provided by the federal CABHI grant. An Oxford House is a self-run, self-supported recovery house to provide an opportunity for every recovering individual to learn a clean and sober way to live.
- **IDD TRANSITIONS TO THE COMMUNITY:** Since January 2012, a total of 345 people have transitioned from intermediate care facilities for IDD to the community. DMH has decreased the number of intermediate care beds at Regional Programs.
- **TRANSITION COORDINATORS:** Each DMH Regional Program employs Transition Coordinators to assist with persons transitioning from an intermediate care program to the community.
- **IDD HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED WAIVER:** Since FY12, the Waiver has been increased with 643 additional slots, allowing individuals to be served in the community and their homes. A total of 2,249 individuals are currently receiving services through the Waiver.
- **EXPANDING IDD COMMUNITY SERVICES:** CMS approved the 1915(i) State Plan Amendment to provide day program services to persons with IDD and the program was implemented in January 2015. DMH anticipates approximately 2,000 persons will receive Day Habilitation, Prevocational Services, and Supported Employment. As a Medicaid State Plan Amendment, there will be no waiting list for services for persons determined eligible.
- **IDD RATE STUDY:** In 2014, DMH worked with Burns and Associates for an IDD rate study for waiver rates to set rates comparable to other states. One of the main goals of the rate study was to develop a rate structure that would allow for appropriate care and services in the community and increase the capacity of community based service providers.
- **SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH IDD:** DMH is currently working with the Department of Rehabilitation Services to develop a memorandum of understanding to provide supported employment for individuals with IDD.
- **IDD SERVICE/PROGRAM EXPANSION:** Since 2011, Mississippi has 64 new community living programs – this includes supervised and supported living programs and 26 new day programs – this includes locations where prevocational services, community respite and day services-adult are provided.

There are many more examples of the progress the State has made and is continuing to make in the area of mental health, substance use and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

A more detailed white paper is available to view at [www.dmh.ms.gov](http://www.dmh.ms.gov).

April 2015